

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AGRE-00 ACDA-07 NRC-05

ERDA-05 OES-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /106 W

-----017946 220019Z /63

R 211218Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9221

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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1. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD LEFT ACCRA JULY 20 AT END OF LOW-KEY ONE-DAY VISIT. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, IN TALKS WITH HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG HE PRAISED GHANA FOR ITS ROLE IN HASTENING INDEPENDENCE OF DJIBOUTI (GHANA HOSTED A CONFERENCE OF LEADERS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE) AND PLEDGED SUPPORT OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT FOR GHANA'S AGRICULTURAL EFFORTS. HE ALSO SAID THAT UNDER A SPECIAL EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM FRANCE WOULD OFFER "ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE" TO GHANA. IN REPLY TO DE GUIRINGAUD'S COMMENT THAT IN AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT THERE SHOULD BE NO PLACE FOR FOREIGN INTERFERENCE, ACHEAMPONG SAID ALL AFRICANS WANTED WAS TO BE ALLOWED TO LIVE IN PEACE AND THAT THEY REACT "ONLY WHEN THEY ARE PUSHED TO THE WALL AND MADE TO FEEL INFERIOR."

2. AT A PREDEPARTURE NEWS CONFERENCE, DE GUIRINGAUD SAID THAT "WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ACCUSED OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA; THIS IS NOT TRUE. WE ONLY SOLD AN ELECTRO-REACTOR TO THEM, WHICH HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ARMS." PURPOSE OF REACTOR, HE EXPLAINED, IS SOLELY TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY. HE OBSERVED THAT FRANCE HAS ONLY A SMALL INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NONE IN ZIMBABWE OR NAMIBIA. DE GUIRINGAUD ALSO SAID FRANCE HAS FOR A LONG TIME GIVEN TRANSPORTATION AND

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HUMANITARIAN AID TO LIBERATION FORCES IN ZIMBABWE AND SOUTH AFRICA; HIS GOVERNMENT HOPES BLACKS THERE WILL ATTAIN INDEPENDENCE IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.

3. COMMENT: STATE DINNER HOSTED BY COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI WAS SAVED ONLY BY THE DECENT MEAL PROVIDED. DE GUIRINGAUD HIMSELF, ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN FRANCE'S FIRST

AMBASSADOR TO GHANA TWENTY YEARS AGO, APPEARED BORED WITH IT ALL. GHANAIA GUESTS, WITH WITTY AND CHARMING PERFORMANCE OF PRINCE CHARLES STILL FRESH IN THEIR MINDS, MADE THE INEVITABLE COMPARISON AND SEEMED TO FIND THE FRENCHMAN HUMORLESS, DOUR AND BORING. HIS SPEECH, GIVEN IN FRENCH AND TRANSLATED AFTER EVERY THIRD PARAGRAPH OR SO, CONTAINED ONLY CLICHES AND LULLED SEVERAL GUESTS TO SLEEP. WE HOPE HE WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL ON OTHER LEGS OF HIS TRIP THAN HE SEEMED TO BE HERE. SMITH

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Message Attributes

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